

Friday, March 18, 2016

Chairman Johnson and Committee Members,

I have attached a summary of my testimony yesterday on HB 5435 & 5437.

I again thank you for your time and am very happy to answer any questions you may have regarding the Michigan Plumbing & Mechanical Contractors Association's view of these bills.

Please feel free to contact me if you need additional information or have additional questions,

Have a great weekend.

Cynthia (Cindy) Maher

Cynthia H. Maher, CAE
Executive Director
MPMCA

Mister Chairman, members of the committee, I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak this morning on House Bill 5437.

My name is Cynthia Maher, and I am representing the Michigan Plumbing & Mechanical Contractors Association which is a 126-year old organization of Plumbing and Mechanical Contractors in Michigan.

The MPMCA consists of companies who are both Plumbing and Mechanical Contractors, companies which hold **both** a Plumbing license and Mechanical license.

On behalf of our members, we appear today to discuss House Bill 5437, which would change current law to allow a Mechanical contractor the ability to test in different specialties without field experience.

1. In their presentation MI ACCA claimed it would take "42" years to be able to acquire the experience required for all tests for the various Mechanical Licenses, I submit that every Mechanical Contractor in Michigan holds more than one license, and most will hold up to 5 or 6 different Mechanical Licenses depending on what area of work they wish to specialize in.

This allows an individual who wants to take the licensing tests the ability to take ANY and ALL tests for the Mechanical Licenses that the contractor they work under holds. As an example, Ben Smith who works for Joe's Mechanical company and Joe holds 6 different mechanical licenses, Ben will be able, in 3 years, to take the exams for ALL 6 licenses if he wants to.

MPMCA is and has been working with the Mechanical division to consolidate the 9 license designations down to a more manageable 4 designations by grouping like designations under one license.

2. The claim that a mechanical contractor would have to shut down their company in order to acquire the experience in another designation is incorrect. If you wished to expand your business, you would simply hire an individual who carries the license for which you wish to test out in and after three years you would have the required experience for testing.

Every Mechanical Contractor licensee **does not own** a business, many work for companies for that very reason, so the company can use their license to work in different designations.

3. The Veterans exemption already exists in the current law; it was put in by the legislature several years ago. Section 338.976 allows for honorably discharged veterans to submit their information to the Mechanical Division/Board for application of experience.

I have offered to work with MI ACCA and Mr. Bird to try and come to a compromise on the concerns of the Michigan Plumbing & Mechanical Contractors membership but have not heard back from them since our discussion 6 or 7 months ago. We continue to offer to work toward a sensible compromise with both this committee and the MI ACCA group.

We have concerns with some license groupings in HB 5437 and have offered to work with MI ACCA and Mr. Bird to review and adjust some of the grouping to allow for more comparable/compatible licenses to be together.

Again, thank you for your time to allow me to address these issues and I will send my comments to all the committee members. And apologize for not having them prepared to hand out today. I have only just returned late yesterday from our State Annual meeting and Expo that we put on.